



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE TO MERGE TUCSON, PHOENIX INVESTIGATIVE OFFICES**

PHOENIX – Aiming to enhance operational coordination and efficiencies in Arizona, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is consolidating its investigative offices in Phoenix and Tucson into one area of responsibility to be led out of Phoenix.

The decision follows a five-month review that concluded that operational, logistic and administrative capabilities would be greatly enhanced by combining the offices under a single management structure.

The consolidation was announced Tuesday by Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia. Garcia also announced that current San Diego Special Agent-in-Charge Michael D. Turner, who led the review from Phoenix as the interim special agent-in-charge, will remain in Phoenix to oversee the merger of the two offices. Turner will be assisted by two newly named deputy special agents-in-charge, Patricia Schmidt in Phoenix and Kent Johansson in Tucson.

“My goal is to fully integrate our immigration and customs responsibilities and resources into a seamless ICE organization; one that will be on the leading edge of domestic security enforcement,” Turner said.

Turner has more than 20 years of service in federal law enforcement. Most recently, in 2003 he was named one of the first special agents-in-charge for ICE when the agency was established under the Department of Homeland Security. From 1983 to 2003, he served with the U.S. Customs Service when it was a bureau of the Treasury Department, where he served as a program manager in export enforcement, as senior law enforcement advisor to the U.S. Treasury's undersecretary for enforcement, as director of strategic investigations, and regional special agent-in-charge of Customs' Internal Affairs office in Long Beach, Calif.

*Author's note:* Michael Turner will be in Tucson Thursday, Nov. 18, and plans to host an availability for local media. Further details on the time and location of the availability will be sent out early next week.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*